

Remarks

The present response is to the Office Action mailed in the above-referenced case on May 06, 2004. Claims 1-18 are presented for examination. Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Silvast (US 5959610) hereinafter Silvast.

Regarding claims 1, 7 and 13, the Examiner states that Silvast discloses an audio mixer controller comprising; an information source storing at least interconnection characteristics and apparatus settings in the system relative to channel inputs; a search function accessible by a user, which upon initiation polls the information source and search criteria associated with the search function for establishing specific information to be matched in a search (col. 3, lines 16- 26); characterized in that initiation of the search function causes the search function to poll the information source, and to return channel numbers those channels that match the search criteria.

The Examiner states it would be inherent that a computer can perform a file search as claimed in applicant's invention. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's interpretation of Silvast when relating teachings to applicant's claim language. Silvast teaches a computer mirrored panel input device which has absolutely no need for a search function because all of the information about the control device is always displayed. Silvast teaches a system which mirrors or displays virtual knob controls, etc. which mirrors the controls of the mixing control device. If a user in Silvast manipulates a knob, the display on the CPU device will mirror the movement. Silvast teaches that the mirroring system arrangement allows the physical console to remain uncluttered both as to

legends and indicators. All legends and indicators are in the display of Silvast.

Applicant argues that it is not inherent in the teaching of Silvast to store channel info which is searchable as in applicant's invention. Applicant's specification teaches that the hardware and software of many modern digital audio mixing systems of current art are designed to support a substantial number of separate channels. Each channel can be independently controlled through parameters previously set up between the control surface of the mixing desk and the mixing engine. It is important for a sound engineer, when processing signals utilizing such a digital audio mixing system, to be able to isolate and monitor any particular channel desired. The task of identifying such a problem channel is made much more difficult for the sound engineer when a large number of buses and channels are used in the mixing system, typical of modern digital audio mixing systems, which are often expandable to include even more buses and channels.


Applicant's invention provides a channel location system and method allowing a user to perform a search and to thereby easily locate any desired channel within the system. Such a system and method enables a user to locate a problem channel, for example, based on search criteria, regardless of whether the channel is obviously visible to the user or not.

Applicant believes claims 1, 7 and 13 are patentable over Silvast as argued above. Claims 2-6, 8-12 and 14-18 are patentable on their own merits, or at least as depended from a patentable claim.

As all of the claims have been clearly shown to be patentable over the prior art presented by the Examiner, applicant respectfully requests that the rejections be withdrawn and that the case be passed quickly to issue. If any fees are due beyond fees paid with this amendment, authorization is

made to deduct those fees from deposit account 50-0534. If any time extension is needed beyond any extension requested with this amendment, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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